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THE OCTOBER FIRST CROP REPORT

A radio discussion by Wallace Kadderly, Radio Service, and E. J. Rowell, Agricultural Marketing Service, presented during the Department of Agriculture portion of National Farm and Home Hour, Wednesday, October 11, 1939, through the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company and 104 associated stations.

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KADDERLY:

Yesterday afternoon at exactly 3:00 o'clock, the Department of Agriculture issued its crop report which covers conditions and size of crop expected as of October 1. As most of you know, this report is prepared behind locked doors and windows. The blinds are drawn and --- well everything possible is done to prevent any of this information getting out in advance of the appointed hour. No report could be more carefully guarded than the crop reports of the Department of agriculture.

E. J. "Mike" Rowell of the Agricultural Marketing Service is here with this new crop report and ready to give us the highlights.

ROWELL:

That's right Wallace, and briefly they are these. Crop prospects declined about 1 percent during September and pastures suffered severely. Of course, I am referring to the country as a whole but most of the reduction was in the Mississippi Valley and Great Plains area which had one of the driest and hottest Septembers in years. Wallace, if you will take this list of commodities and read them off one at a time I'll strive to give a few words about each one as to size of the crop and whether the crop is larger or smaller than was expected a month ago.

KADDERLY:

(Ad lib) CORN.

ROWELL:

The estimated production of corn is 2 billion, 532 million bushels. That's about equal to last year's crop and is an increase of only 9 million bushels of the September forecast. Incidentally the weather conditions favored early maturity of the corn crop this year.

KADDERLY:

Wheat.

ROWELL:

Preliminary estimate is 740 million bushels. That's a little less than the 10-year average and almost 200 million less than last year.

KADDERLY:

Grain Sorghums.

ROWELL:

Down 12 percent - an estimated crop of 88 million bushels.

(over)

KADDERLY:

Oats.

ROWELL:

The 1939 oat crop is now estimated at 941 million bushels; an increase of 11 million during the past month but it is still 10 percent below average.

KADDERLY:

Hay.

ROWELL:

84 million tons. Adding that to the 16 million tons on farms last spring provides a supply of 100 million which is 13 million tons larger than the 10-year average.

KADDERLY:

Barley.

ROWELL:

Up 2 percent.

KADDERLY:

Potatoes. (Irish)

ROWELL:

Down 2 percent, with the crop now estimated at 359 million bushels. In Maine the yields are uniformly disappointing while in Idaho the prospects are about the same as a month ago.

KADDERLY:

Sweet potatoes.

ROWELL:

Down 3 percent.

KADDERLY:

Peanuts.

ROWELL:

Down 5 percent.

KADDERLY:

Tobacco.

ROWELL:

Just about the same as a month ago.

KADDERLY:

Citrus fruits -- wait a minute; let's break that down and take grapefruit first.

ROWELL:

Nearly 37 million boxes; that's quite a lot less than last year, but bigger than either of the two previous years.

KADDERLY:

Florida oranges.

ROWELL:

Well, it will probably be the biggest crop on record.

KADDERLY:

California navel oranges.

ROWELL:

About 16 percent smaller than last year, or 2 percent below the 10-year average.

KADDERLY:

That doesn't cover all the list that you handed me, Mike, I can see reports on here for buckwheat, rice, flaxseed, beans, pears, prunes and plums, cranberries and a lot of miscellaneous fruits and nuts, but if any of our Farm and Home friends would like information on these or any other commodities I know you will be pleased to provide it.

ROWELL:

That's right Wallace, we're always glad to do that.

KADDERLY:

I think we should hear about a couple more farm products; what about apples?

ROWELL:

2 percent drop in the size of the commercial crop since September 1, but fruit production is sufficient to give more than the usual amount of fruit per person during the coming year.

KADDERLY:

What about a few words on vegetables.

ROWELL:

Lots of onions and snap beans, a rather light tonnage of late crop cabbage, but generally speaking the supply of fall vegetables for use now and winter storage appears adequate.

KADDERLY:

Thanks Mike, and we'll be looking for you tomorrow with your report on cattle on feed.

ROWELL:

Yes, Wallace, cattle on feed is the report tomorrow. That is released at 12:00 o'clock and we'll have it on the air in less than an hour later.

KADDERLY:

(Ad lib close calling attention to fact crop report can be had from Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A., or from Agricultural Extension Service of State Land Grant College).

